

OPEN SPACE COMMITTEE MINUTES

Regular Meeting

May 6, 2010

Newington Town Hall

7:00 P.M.

I. Roll Call

The following members were present: Chairman Bowen, Ms. Wojtowicz, Mrs. Conway, Mr. Bottalico, Mrs. Anest, Mr. Marcinczyk, Mr. Lenares, and Mr. Nagel.

Also present: Town Planner Ed Meehan

II. Minutes

April 1, 2010 Regular Meeting – Mr. Nagel requested that the April 1, 2010 regular meeting reflect his participation in part of the executive session and that he left early. Mr. Marcinczyk moved the minutes be approved as corrected, seconded by Mrs. Anest and approved.

April 8, 2010 Special Meeting – Mr. Marcinczyk moved that the April 8, 2010 special meeting minutes be approved. Seconded by Mrs. Anest and approved.

III. Public Participation

None

IV. New Business – Subcommittee Reports

A. Land Trust

Ms. Wojtowicz reported that she is working on the paperwork to establish the Newington Open Space Trust, Inc.

It was agreed that those Committee members who are interested in starting a Newington Land Trust would meet separately from the Committee and begin to move ahead on this item.

B. Open Space Grants

No activity at this time.

C. Other Potential Open Space Properties

Ed Meehan reported on the inventory spreadsheet he is preparing to evaluate vacant properties, both commercial and residential. This inventory will be useful to the

Committee and a Land Trust in identifying priority properties for open space protection.

V. Old Business

- A. Cedar Crest Hospital – Town Open Space Request - Chairman Bowen report on recent action in the General Assembly on the bill to set aside 40 acres of the 70 acre Cedar Crest Hospital property for protected open space. As the proposal now stands, the 10 acres along Mountain Road frontage (see attached map) will to be transferred to the DEP for open space protection rather than the 40 acres conveyed to the Town. The House has passed the transfer of the 10 acres to DEP but the Senate did not act during this session. Chairman Bowen recommended that Committee members contact Senator Doyle and express support for the preservation of the 10 acres. The committee agreed that if the property is transferred to DEP it would want to have assurances that the 10 acres must remain as permanent open space.
- B. Cedar Mountain Litter Problems – Mrs. Conway reported that on her recent walk to the Cedar Mountain overlook (Balf Company property) there was a significant amount of trash. She asked if the Town should get involved in helping keep this area cleaned up. Chairman Bowen stated that this is private property and the Town should not get involved with patrolling and trash pick up.

VI. Executive Sessions

Mrs. Anest moved that the Committee go into executive session to discuss real estate strategy for Cedar Mountain open space, seconded by Ms. Wojtowicz. Chairman Bowen stated that he wanted to keep the first part of the strategy discussion separate from any land use/zoning matters. The vote to go into executive session was unanimous.

Present: Chairman Bowen, Committee members Bottalico, Anest, Conway, Wojtowicz, Nagel, Lenares, Marcinczyk, Town Planner Ed Meehan.

The executive session began at 7:36 p.m. and ended at 8:01 p.m.

The second part of the executive session began at 8:02 p.m. Mrs. Anest and Mr. Lenares excused themselves and left the meeting citing their membership on the Town Plan and Zoning Commission and possible potential conflict of interest. The second part of the executive session ended at 9:16 p.m. and the regular meeting resumed.

Mrs. Conway moved that the Chairman be authorized on behalf of the Committee to respond to the April 29, 2010 memorandum from the Town Manager expressing the Committee's consensus that when it is in the best interest of the Town, the Committee will take a position on zoning to preserve land for open space protection. Seconded by Ms. Wojtowicz and unanimously approved.

VII. Adjournment

Mr. Bottalico moved that the Committee adjourn, seconded by Mr. Marcinczyk and approved at 9:20 p.m.

Submitted,

Edmund J. Meehan
Town Planner

Town Clerk
Town Website